

**St Michael and All Angels,
Upper Sapey
Patronal Festival and Appeal Launch**



Sunday 27th September 2015

St. Michael, the Archangel

The name Michael signifies "Who is like to God?" and was the war-cry of the good angels in the battle fought in heaven against Satan and his followers.

The Bible describes St. Michael as "one of the chief princes," and leader of the forces of heaven in their triumph over the powers of hell. He has been especially honoured and invoked as patron and protector by the Church from the time of the Apostles.

Although he is always called "the Archangel," the Greek Fathers and many others place him over all the angels – as Prince of the Seraphim.

Upper Sapey Church Rescue & Friendship Room

As well as celebrating our Patronal Saint and the continuing life of this church, we ask God's blessing on the project to repair and develop St Michael's Church.

The project has been conceived and planned very much with the local community of Upper Sapey in mind, and the community's prayerful support is vital over the coming months to see it to a successful completion.

Our **Mission Statement** starts with the words "To repair the church and provide a warm, comfortable meeting room..."

Please note:

The congregation says the words printed in **bold**.

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Preparation

Welcome and Greeting *Please stand*

We stand before the throne of God
with countless crowds
from every nation and race, tribe and language.

**Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Welcome and Notices

The leader welcomes the congregation, and explains the form and purpose of this service.

Hymn *Please stand*

No. 144 "Come, let us join our cheerful songs"

Handing over the Parish Cross *Please sit*

The Parish Cross is brought forward.

The giver of the cross says

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ;
for he is our salvation, our life, and our resurrection,
and through him we are saved and made free.

On behalf of the people of **Edvin Loach**

I present you with the Parish Cross.

May it be a focus of our prayers
and a sign of our unity in Christ. **Amen.**

The receiver of the cross says

Father, your Son showed the depth of his love when,
for our sake, he opened his arms on the Cross.

On behalf of the people of **Upper Sapey**

I accept the Parish Cross.

Through the saving power of the Cross,
impressed inwardly on our lives

and revealed outwardly in our work,

may others come to know

the depth of your love.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The leader places the Parish Cross in the Chancel.

Opening Prayer *Please sit or kneel*

Let us pray.

We say together:

Come, Holy Spirit,

fill the hearts of your faithful people,

and kindle in us the fire of your love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers of Penitence and Absolution

We have come to Mount Zion,

the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,

to myriads of angels, to God, the judge of all,

and to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

We have wandered from your paths,

yet your truth leads us home.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We have failed to live as your children,
yet your love restores us.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We are disfigured by our sin,
yet your power heals us.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn *Please stand*
No. 198 “Ye holy angels bright”

The Collect (the prayer for today)
Please sit or kneel

Everlasting God,
you have ordained and constituted
the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order:
grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,
so, at your command,
they may help and defend us on earth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Word

Please sit

First reading: Hebrews 1.5-14

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,
'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'?
Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world,
he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Of the angels he says,
'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.'

But of the Son he says,
'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you with
the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;

like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

But to which of the angels has he ever said,
'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'?

Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

At the end,

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn *Please stand*

No. 149 “Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim”

Gospel reading: John 1.47-51 *Remain standing*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’

Nathanael asked him,

‘Where did you come to know me?’

Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’

Nathanael replied,

‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’

Jesus answered,

‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?

You will see greater things than these.’

And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *Please sit*

Dedication of the Appeal

The Rector asks God's blessing of the Appeal, and dedicates its use to His service.

God of joy and blessing,
we dedicate this Church Rescue Appeal to you,
asking that all that has made this appeal launch possible –
 the questioning and planning,
 the praying and discussing,
 the socialising and publicity –
will bear fruit today and in the weeks ahead.

Though our aim is to raise funds,
may that not obscure our chief objective,
which is to preserve and enhance the work of your church
in Upper Sapey in serving the community.

Bless this appeal,
and grant that as the fundraising and project progress,
we may more and more be drawn closer to you
and experience your healing power.
We pray this in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Response to God's Word

Hymn *Please stand*

During this hymn a Collection will be taken.

No. 163 "Angel voices, ever singing"

The collection is blessed

Loving God, bless this money and those who give it,
that all may be sanctified by your touch
and used to your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Affirmation of Faith *Please stand*

We stand to declare our faith in God, saying together

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession *Please sit or kneel*

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

Father in heaven,
by his blood your Christ has ransomed us to you,
and has made us a kingdom and priests to you our God.

As the angels minister to you in heaven,
strengthen your Church to serve you here on earth.

Guide all those who are concerned with the planning
and executing of the works in this building,
that all that they do may be truly for thy glory.
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Father in heaven,
when the angels greeted the birth of your Son
they sang for joy 'Glory to God and peace on earth'.
Bless with Christ's peace the nations of the world.
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Father in heaven,
your Son has promised to your children
the care of the guardian angels who look upon your face.
Protect by your mercy our neighbours, families and friends.

Inspire us to plan and use the Friendship Room
for the benefit and succour of your people in Upper Sapey and beyond.
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Father in heaven,
you give your angels charge over those who trust in you
to guard them in all their ways.
Be with those in trouble ...,
rescue them and show them your salvation.
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Father in heaven,
your angel declares 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.'

'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit,
'for they may rest from their labours,
for they take with them the record of their deeds.'
Enfold in your love [... and] all who come in faith
to your judgement seat in heaven.
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Father in heaven,
the angels sing by day and night around your throne:
'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty.'
With Michael, prince of the angels,
who contends by our side,
with Gabriel, your herald, who brings glad tidings,
with Raphael, the protector, who ministers your healing,
and with the whole company of heaven,
we worship you, we give you glory,
we sing your praise and exalt you for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

We say together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Peace *Please stand*

Hear again the song of the angels:
'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.'
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.
(*A handshake with those around you is all that is necessary.*)

Final Hymn

No. 95 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God almighty"

Blessing and dismissal *Remain standing*

God keep us in the fellowship of his saints;
Christ protect us by the ministry of the angels;
the Spirit make us holy in God's service;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst us and remain with us always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

Please stay for a tea or coffee and a chat if you are able.

Visit our website to keep up to date with developments:

<http://www.whitbourne.org.uk/files/USRescue.shtml>

